

David Ballantyne

THANK YOU for your fine obituary for David Ballantyne [by Emmanuel Cooper, 25 July], writes Sir George Trevelyan.

I had known him since 1950. He was a great craftsman and an inspired creator. He is known to many for his splendid pottery. But the remarkable thing about him was his ability to turn his hand to any craft with brilliant success.

Really I see him as a Renaissance man. The Italian Renaissance in the fifteenth century was an astonishing burst of creativity. It seems that the great figures of that period had the mentality that could face any problem in any craft or building project and devise a way to solve it. David in like manner was not just a potter, but also a metalworker, a carver, a painter, a silversmith, a musician and a poet. Faced with any challenge or problem, his mind tackled it afresh and explored novel solutions, drawing into service the skill of any craft.

It was a wholeness of thinking which resulted in most exciting work. His dynamic vision grappled with anything that had to be solved; every craft and skill was his domain. It is a typical tale that when he bought his first motor car he at once began to take it to bits to find out how it worked.

Independent.

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